



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

January 3, 2012
State School Chief
(LEA Name)
(LEA Street Address)
(LEA City, State Code and Zip)

Dear Chief State School Officer:

In the coming days, your state's Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), Juvenile Justice Facilities, Regional Education Service Agencies and other state agencies providing educational services to children and youth will be receiving a letter regarding the 2011-12 U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). The CRDC collects information about students in public schools, including enrollment, educational services and outcomes, disaggregated by race/ethnicity, sex, limited English proficiency, and disability. The CRDC is a valuable source of information about access to educational opportunities in our Nation's public schools that is used by the Department's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and other Department offices, as well as policymakers, researchers and many others in the education community. The 2011-2012 CRDC will be available to the agencies via website www.crdc2011.org.

In preparation for this collection, it is important to make sure leaders at all LEAs and SEAs are aware of the collection's plans and requirements. For the 2011-12 CRDC, we ask that you identify a contact person in your SEA who will serve as a state liaison for the 2011-12 collection. This will make it possible to share information regarding the CRDC, including correspondence to LEAs, with your state contact. Please contact the Partner Support Center to inform them who your state designated contact will be by January 20, 2012.

The 2011-12 survey form with definitions and FAQ are on the OCR website at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/data.html?src=rt>. Any assistance which you can provide to ensure this critical information is passed on to the appropriate contacts within your state's LEAs would be greatly appreciated.

The 2011-12 CRDC includes all schools and districts in the nation. We recognize that some state agencies may directly operate schools or juvenile justice educational programs. If your state education agency directly operates such facilities, and has not received instructions on how to update the list of schools for which it is responsible, it is important to have the state agency contact our partner support center.

Please feel free to contact the Partner Support Center if you have any questions or ideas on how we can make the 2011-12 CRDC collection a success.

Telephone: 1-855-320-6459

Fax: 1-888-FAX-EDEN (1-888-329-3336)

TTY/TDD: 1-888-403-EDEN (1-888-403-3336)

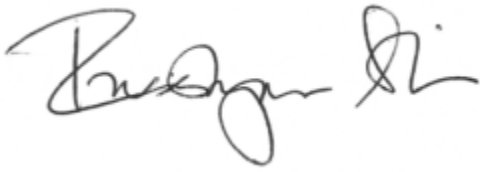
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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russlynn Ali". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Russlynn" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ali".

Russlynn Ali
Assistant Secretary
Office for Civil Rights